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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80

2 (As Amended by Senate Amendment No. 1)

3 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children provided with
4 recess are more focused, on-task, and able to concentrate on
5 educational material than those who are not afforded a recess
6 period; cognitive function improves when a child has the
7 opportunity for physical exercise and active play; and

8 WHEREAS, Obesity rates among children have skyrocketed in
9 recent years, with one in three American children now being
10 considered overweight or obese; recess provides children with
11 the opportunity for physical exercise during the school day;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Recess is essential for providing students with a
14 less structured period of time in which to engage in social
15 interactions and develop interpersonal relationships with
16 peers; it is often during this time that children improve their
17 leadership and conflict resolution skills; and

18 WHEREAS, A large number of students go every school day
19 with no opportunity for a recess period; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Recess in Schools
2 Task Force; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be charged with
4 examining the barriers facing schools in providing daily recess
5 to every age-appropriate student and making recommendations
6 for overcoming those obstacles; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Task force shall be comprised of the
8 following 15 members:

9 (1) two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom
10 shall be a medical professional with expertise in
11 children's health issues;

12 (2) one member appointed by the President of the
13 Senate;

14 (3) one member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

15 (4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives;

17 (5) one member appointed by the House Minority Leader;

18 (6) one member appointed by the Chicago Board of
19 Education;

20 (7) one member appointed by the Governor upon
21 recommendation of the education labor organization
22 representing Chicago public school teachers;

23 (8) one member appointed by the Governor upon
24 recommendation of a Statewide education labor

1 organization;

2 (9) one member appointed by the Governor upon
3 recommendation of another Statewide education labor
4 organization;

5 (10) one member appointed by the Governor upon
6 recommendation of an organization representing principals;

7 (11) one member appointed by the Governor upon
8 recommendation of a Chicago-based coalition of low-income
9 mothers and grandmothers focusing on family issues;

10 (12) one member appointed by the Governor upon
11 recommendation of a parent-teacher organization;

12 (13) one member appointed by the Governor upon
13 recommendation of an organization advocating for juvenile
14 justice reform;

15 (14) one member appointed by the Governor upon
16 recommendation of an organization that advocates for
17 healthy school environments; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force must meet within 60 days
19 after the adoption of this resolution and submit a final report
20 to the General Assembly by January 1, 2011 with its
21 recommendations for bringing recess back to the maximum number
22 of students.